

Jefferson Peak

Leadville, Colorado

June 24, 1915.

Mr. Frank Bond,

Secretary National Geographic Board.

Miss Harriet W. Vaile

Secretary Colorado Geographic Board:

My last letter contained a promise to submit a photo of a mountain for consideration for a memorial to Mr. Gannett.

The views to show it to best advantage should have been taken from the northwest and about half way up the canyon.

I was unable to reach the first point on account of snow fields above timberline.

Not to delay the matter longer I send you what I could get at the time. Numbers 1 and 2 are from a short distance above the dam site of the Leadville reservoir shown on plate C L 1 Vol. 111 pg 366 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report U.S. Geological Survey and gives a distant view of the mountain named Mt. Arkansas on reconnaissance map Leadville District reprint 1901. The mountain is known as "snow mountain" and "snow peak" ~~and~~ and other names. This atlas sheet gives the altitude as 13807 feet, which is 200 to 400 feet less than other peaks on the range, but what it lacks in height, as so compared, it makes up in appearance, for it rises abruptly

2)

from the head of deep canyon, or valley, and is strikingly imposing. It instantly attracts attention and always invites an inquiry for its name. When the old lake is restored it will be the best patronized body of water in the mountains, and that white robed sentinel guarding, one of our most beautiful canyons, will be its chief view attraction.

The atlas sheet mentioned is faulty. A hill, or mountain, for it rises above timberline, bears the name of a vicious anarchist, and illustrates the need of Geographic Boards.

To get photo No. 3, I climbed up a chimney (as they call them in the Alps) worked around a pinnacle to a small ledge on a perpendicular cliff. This shows the unnamed peak between "Mt. Arkansas" and Mt. Lincoln. I would respectfully suggest that this peak be named Jefferson Peak. There is a Mt. Jefferson in New Hampshire and one in Oregon also, but the Louisiana Purchase ought to have a natural memorial to his memory.

The ~~name~~ <sup>word</sup> "mosquito," for the peak just south of this, and also for the whole range, is not a name to favorably impress the home, health and pleasure seeker. It is too alarmingly suggestive. I think Washington Peak and the Historic Range would be an improvement.

3)

The press and the people are now severely criticising those who tour Europe to the neglect of our own country. While the annual exodus is regrettable the strictures are hardly justifiable. We must make our own country equally attractive by building roads, hotels, refuges and revising our ridiculous nomenclature.

The prints I send are for identification purposes only and are not what I hoped to get. The world associates our rail roads and steam ships with the names of Stephenson and Fulton and the Telegraph and telephone with Morse and Bell, but it is not so of Henry Gannett (whose inventive genius was equally important to the development of our civilization as that of some of the others) Even the marginal, "compiled by Henry Gannett" may disappear from our Government maps at some time in the future if geographic students and the engineering profession do not take up the matter at the present time.

It is my intention to get out a volume of 8 X 10 views of picturesque and interesting points on these ranges, and will send the officers of both Boards copies. Just now I am trying to get a return for the cost of 12000 feet of underground mining work, and it is taxing my time to the limit. The outlook is promising, and, of course, interesting to the exclusion of <sup>nearly</sup> everything else. Respectfully yours, R. E. Taft.